

Intimations.

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

AERATED WATERS.

WATER—The Water used is absolutely pure.

STEAM PLANT—Of the latest and most powerful type.

SUPERVISION—The whole process of manufacture is under the continuous supervision of a qualified English Chemist.

The PRODUCT—Will bear comparison with the Waters made by the most noted makers in England.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & Co., LD.,

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED WATERS.

OUR NEW FACTORY has been recently refitted with automatic Steam Machinery of the latest and most approved kind, and we are well able to compete in quality with the best English makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

"BOMBAY SODAS."

We continue to supply large bottles as heretofore, *Free of Extra Charge*, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS, whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

For **COAST PORTS**, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Empties when received in good condition.

And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always kept ready in Stock:

PURE AERATED WATER
SODA WATER
LEMONADE
POTASH WATER
SELTZER WATER
LITHIA WATER
SARSAPARILLA WATER
TONIC WATER
LEMON SQUASH
GINGER ALE
RASPBERRYADE
GINGERADE

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Waters, as such Bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
The Hongkong Dispensary, Hongkong.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1893.

TELEGRAMS.

UNRULY ULSTER.

LONDON, April 12th.

The Viceroy has imposed severe restrictions on the import of arms and munitions of war into Ireland.

HULL RIOTS.

Two gunboats have been sent to Hull to protect the Docks against possible attacks being made from the River in the course of the strike.

EGYPT.

The anti-European feeling, fanned by the Ministry, is increasing in Egypt.

STRIKE AT CHICAGO.

Four thousand workmen employed at the Chicago Exhibition have struck.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

Mr. Chamberlain, during the debate on the second reading of the Home Rule Bill, predicted that Ireland would never allow the Imperial Parliament to intervene on Irish bills; he criticized the financial proposals whereby England would lose one and a half millions yearly, and another million in the event of a special war tax being imposed. He stated that if the bill, which would be the only remedy, and further, that in the event of a foreign war, it was possible Ireland might side with the enemy. The MacCarthy party accept the principle of the bill but seek to amend the financial portion.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE HANDICAP.
Hon. C. P. Chatter, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

AUSTRIA AND ITALY.

PARIS, April 4th.

The Austrian Emperor's brother will be present at the silver wedding of King Humbert.

FRANCE.

The Senate and the Chamber of Deputies cannot agree as to the Budget.

M. Lockroy replaces M. Poincaré as Rapporteur-General.

The Cabinet, defeated by five votes on a small question, has resigned.

Parliament has adjourned until Tuesday (11th) Vice-Admiral Buge, who commanded a division of the French Mediterranean squadron, has died of paralysis.

(Francis Alfred Buge was born in 1834; served in 1860, in the Syrian engagements, as ensign; in 1870 he gained distinction in the fights of Epine and Bourget; was appointed captain of frigate, and officer of Legion of Honour; wrote the most complete history ever published of the siege of Paris; was appointed vice-admiral in 1886.)

FRANCE AND SIAM.

SAIGON, April 4th.

Acting on instructions applied for and received from Paris two weeks ago, and following the current advice by the Governor General, with absolute secrecy, French troops occupied Saigon, a station held by the Siamese, on Saturday, 1st inst., without having to strike a blow.

The Siamese commissioner and soldiers withdrew at the request of the French Resident, who directed operations.

This is the first stage of active intervention on the left bank of the Mekong. It was on account of these proceedings that M. de Lanessan's departure from Saigon to Hue and Tourane was delayed.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A HOME paper publishes an advertisement for a "young man, to wait at table about 20 years." He will be rather old when he gets through it.

The *Pokien* came out of dock yesterday evening, after a month's sojourn there, during which time she has been thoroughly overhauled, and reclassified.

In a recent inter-settlement match nine men of the Province Wellesley Cricket Club contributed an aggregate of three runs to a total of 33 against Perak's 231.

On Saturday, the 25th March, there was a cricket match at Batavia between eleven of H.M.S. *Pallas* and the Batavia Cricket Club. Batavia was very badly beaten.

A REGULAR meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 618, S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

It is reported in Goa (says a contemporary) that H. E. Teixeira da Silva, the present Governor of Goa, will be transferred to Macao, and that H. E. Custodio M. de Borja will replace him there.

MAJOR-GENERAL D. Massey, C.B., who is about to vacate the command of the troops in Ceylon, was amongst the passengers for China by the *Suffolk*. He travels to England by the Canadian Pacific Railway Route.

Mrs. M'GOWAN, owner of the public gardens on Monday evening, April 5th.

Two Russian torpedo-boats, the *Gogland*, Capt. Lebedeff, and the *Nacien*, Capt. Lebedeff, arrived at Singapore on the 4th inst. from Cronstadt bound for Vladivostok. Their stay in Singapore will extend over a period of ten days.

A REMARKABLY narrow escape from probably a fatal accident occurred early yesterday morning, at the residence of Mr. Laprak, Glenora. About 2 a.m. (Irish time), Mr. J. D. Laprak heard strange sounds proceeding from the roof over his bedroom. He went out, and called Mr. J. S. Laprak, who was in the next room asleep. Mr. Laprak, junior, said, half in jest "I think the roof is coming down!" and a moment later the whole roof fell through. The room was wrecked, and it was most fortunate that nobody was in it. Two minutes made all the difference.

LAST night's *Telegraph* contained a paragraph querying the quality of local Jewish charity. We have since ascertained, however, that the tale of woe as told to us by the lady should have been considerably modified had she possessed absolute regard for the truth, the whole truth etc. As a matter of fact the woman is in a pitiable plight at present, but for years past she has been assisted by members of the Jewish community and only recently was offered a free passage to Bombay (where her relatives are) for herself and children but for some reason she has not yet accepted.

THE Chinese have, since the civil war, increased their navy then in progress by two large cruisers, the *President* and *Erasmus*, and a further addition, in the shape of a formidable ironclad, to be called the *Capitan Prat*, has been carried out by the firm of French shipbuilders, at whom the contract was entrusted. The new vessel follows the usual French system in the arrangement of her heavy guns, which are 24-centimetre Canals. One is mounted in a projecting barbettes amidships on each side, and one each at the bow and the stern. In addition to this she carries a pair of 12-centimetre quick-firing guns under a shield on each bow and quarter, as well as four smaller quick-firing and eleven machine guns. The new warship was launched in 1890, and the engine of 1,200 horse power. Along the water-line and in her barbettes towers the *Capitan Prat* is plated with about twelve inches of armour, and her armoured deck is between two and three inches in thickness. She has four torpedo ejectors, and is estimated to be capable of steaming nineteen knots.

ON Tuesday evening last a most enjoyable smoking concert was given by the Junior N. C. O's, Royal Engineers, in their room attached to the Regimental Institute, Wellington Barracks. Proceedings were opened at 8 p.m. sharp when Lieut. Cpl. Dyer R.E., gave a capital rendering of "The Miners' Dream," on completion of which he resumed the hammer, and by the affable and versatile manner in which he conducted the various items of the evening's entertainment, he fairly charmed the company. The well selected programme got through in good time and was in all its details capital rendered; the performances of the following gentlemen were, judged by the "encore" demanded, most favourably received—Leading Seaman Ball, R.N. and Cpl. Bullen R.E. Cpl. Egden M. S. C. and Cpl. I. R. E. Leading Shipwright John R. N. and Cpl. Sherman, R.E. The several singers were admirably accompanied on the piano by Sapper Campbell, R.E. Great credit is due to the committee of management for the excellent decoration of the apartment, and to Cpl. Glover for the manner in which he looked after the animal comforts of the party. Proceedings were brought to a close at 10.30 p.m. by singing God Save the Queen.

APPARENTLY the surplus cadet nuisance has its counterpart in the French colonies. The *Courrier* of the 6th notes the arrival of three officers of vice-resident rank, and says "What on earth is to be done with them now, since all ports are already over-crowded (archi-complis)!"

Broke:—I wish you could lend me twenty dollars, old man. I am cleaned out just now. Give you it back to-morrow.

Soko:—But you have that swaggar diamond ring—raise a hundred for it—let me buy my mother.

S:—And my money was left me by my father.

What price that?

Mr. F. W. BRUXTER, Assistant Superintendent, Lower Perak, writes: "On Saturday, February 25th, between 3 and 4 p.m., a very heavy thunderstorm passed over Teluk Anson, accompanied with torrents of rain, as well as hail. Hailstones as large as peas were picked up by many Europeans and natives; the latter, of course, were very much surprised, and one man brought some to me to ask what they were."

No less than seven Chinese firms are at present busily engaged in constructing life-rafts. These are intended for several steamers, lately arrived from the coast of China, Japan and elsewhere, which are following the rules of the new Ordinance regarding boat-space, etc., that they may obtain a survey and passenger certificate. It is doubtful whether these life-rafts are not more of a nuisance in a sudden emergency—a collision or wreck—founding in heavy weather, than the boats usually carried, which are hard to launch and which very frequently break like egg shells at the critical moment.

THE secretary of General Wang Chih-lang, commanding the forces in the Pescadores, was in Shanghai recently and was interviewed by a representative of the *Mercury*. Among other things the secretary stated that the gallant general was exceedingly surprised and gratified to receive a present of a gold chronometer watch and double-barrelled fowling-piece on the 11th of March last from the Committee of the "Bokhara Fund" in acknowledgment of his kindness and attention to the wants of the survivors of that sad accident while at the Pescadores, and would doubtless be pleased to learn that his feelings were made known to "his European friends, especially his English friends" through the columns of the paper.

THE Singapore *Free Press* of the 3rd inst. says:—Alarming rumours reached Labuan last week through native sources concerning the fate of an expedition up country, which, at present, want confirmation, and so far as is at present known in Singapore, would appear to be without foundation in fact. The rumours as they reached Singapore were to the effect that some disaster had occurred in which two Europeans and a number of Dyak police had been murdered in the Kudat or west coast district. The two Europeans who were said to be killed were Capt. Barnett, Superintendent of Police, and Mr. G. Ormsby, Postmaster at Labuan; and it was stated that the disturbance arose out of a dispute in connection with the levying of the poll-tax. Reinforcements were despatched to the scene of the supposed disaster on Tuesday last, but no confirmation has been received of the rumours, though at the time when the *Post* and the *Norfolk* left, on the 28th inst., nothing further appears to have been heard in Labuan of the fate of the expedition. We learn, however, that H.E. the Governor has received private adv. which were from native sources, were untrue. It was also stated that Mr. Trovenden had accounted for every man up to the 3rd inst.

THE assault-at-arms on Friday evening next at the V.R.C., which commences at 8.30 p.m. promises to be well worth seeing, as Staff Sergeant Tennant has provided a very fair programme, all things considered. A gallery has been erected in the Gymnasium, capable of seating 200 persons, which will be a great convenience, and the hall has been gaily decorated. The championship fencing competition, for a handsome prize, will be the feature of the evening. V.R.C. should be very keenly contested, as most of the competitors show very good form, which has been gained under the able instruction of Staff Sergeant Tennant. The Rope Climbing Competition, for silver cigar cases, will also be a good display of muscular training, particularly on the part of a miniature gymnast. The Boxing Exhibitions, which are generally the most attractive items, are sure to afford satisfaction to all parties interested, as some very clever experts of the noble art will be on deck, and are already offering for the fray. The Indian Wrestlers will afford a rare opportunity for "game" artists, and Blondina's display will upset Sir Isaac Newton's theory, and demonstrate that it is possible to walk on nothing—when you know how. The Lion Conquest of the Colony, Mr. G. Vowles will give lessons gratis in Volapuk; and the contortionist Prof. Cracknell will give the spectators the "jimmies" in a very few turns. The Pathan Palans are also announced, and will materially assist in the mystic exhibition. Other items are on the programme such as Lacer, Cavalry word, and Indian Club exercises. We understand The Hon. J. H. S. Lockyer, Chairman of the Club has kindly consented to present the prizes, and in an enjoyable evening is anticipated. Visitors had better take their seats early, or the hall will be filled with members.

THE *Mining Journal* publishes the following on the "Charbonnages" coal mines, in the course of an interview with Mr. Henry Lewis, A.M.S.:—"I visited a visit of inspection to the Hongkong coal fields, which, as you know, are worked by a French company."

"What do you think of the enterprise?"—"I am of opinion that it is a most promising one. Prospects have latterly greatly improved, and I saw for myself a seam of coal not less than 200 feet thick, and this was principally pure coal. I also saw one exposure which I roughly estimated to embrace no less than 5,000,000 tons of good coal available for working, and situated above the level of the railway. This is all, mind you, in one block."

"What sort of coal is it, Mr. Lewis?"—"It is a seam of hard coal in many respects resembling Welsh. The best of it is quite equal to good Welsh steam coal, and the rest is not by any means a bad steam-raising fuel."

"When will the effect of working these deposits be seriously felt in the East?"—"I should say soon after the railway now in progress is completed, and the briquette-making machinery ready."

"Then, I take it, the deposits are situated some distance from the coast?"—"Oh, no; only a few miles—that is to say, the nearest collieries are 5 miles from the wharf, where there is water enough to admit a 2,000-ton steamer. When the railway between the collieries and the wharf is completed the practical effect of this coal field will certainly be felt."

"Is it considered likely that the export trade in Tonkin coal should be considerable?"—"Yes, it is expected that a coaling station will be established at the point I have referred to. There will also be markets in the coaling stations in the East, notably at Hongkong. The Japanese market is already fairly supplied with this soft coal."

THE *Padang Handelsblad* reports an explosion of gas in one of the Omblillen coal mines. Twenty convicts were injured, five of whom have since died.

From a telegram which we publish elsewhere it will be seen that the Hon. C. P. Chatter has at last secured a big race on the English turf. Full particulars will appear to-morrow.

At the Magistracy to-day, before Mr. H. E. Woodhouse, a coolie was sent to gaol for six weeks, for being found in possession of a number of counterfeit Singapore small coins yesterday.

We are glad to learn that Capt. Samuel Ashton is much better, and returned to-day in the *Huanghai* from a short trip to Macao, which appears to have still further improved his condition.

FOR having stolen ten brass incense burners, valued at \$50, from the Ming Ching temple at Ap-lichau on the 3rd inst., a coolie was sent to gaol for four months by the magistrate this morning.

THE *Ceylon Sporting Gazette* notes that owing principally to insufficient entries, the Kandy Races have had to be postponed and they will now take place in May; the dates fixed being May 20th and 21st. This will bring the fixture into Queen's Birthday week, and it is to be hoped that the races will then fill better.

ON board the British steamer *Oceanic* yesterday Detective Green and a Chinese constable saw a Chinese hawk seller bring to the native crew, and as he had no licence, the officers went for him at once. He tried to throw his contraband overboard, but was not quite quick enough. He was brought before the magistrate to-day and sent to prison for two months in lieu of paying \$50 fine. He had been previously convicted of unlawfully selling liquor on the same ship.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Company has been awarded a silver medal and diploma for their exhibit at the Exposition of the Mechanical Institute and preliminary World's Fair display of the C.P.R., in receiving numerous congratulations, the idea having originated with him. The most interesting feature of the exhibit was a very handsome model of the steamship *Empress of India*, over eight feet in length, and which weighs 100 pounds. There were also numerous views of scenery along the Canadian Pacific.

A NAVAL correspondent of the *London and China Express* gives the following details of the *Empress of India*. The length is 180 feet, the beam 28 feet, and the draught only 5 feet. There are two screws worked by engines developing up to 3,400-horse power; the displacement is 220 tons, and the coal capacity is to be fifty-five or sixty tons. The complement will be forty officers and men, and the armaments on 12 pounder quick-firing, three 6 pounder quick-firing, and three torpedo ejectives. There will then be no less than 154-horse power per ton of displacement.

At the Sanitary Board meeting to be held to-morrow, at 4.15 p.m., are as follows:—*Agenda*—1. Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's report for the year 1892. 2. Superintendent's report for the year 1892. 3. Mortality returns for the weeks ended the 1st and 8th April, 1893. 4. Surveyor's report on the condition of the house-drains of 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31, Hollywood Road; and 44 and 46, Lyndhurst Terrace. 5. Six applications for licences and renewal of licences to keep water-closets on private premises.

HOLD your breath for 30 seconds, for here's a long-nosed horse coming. His title is given by the *Ceylon Sporting Gazette* as Polli-rakkarattarannimla. It is hardly credible that a name like that would be such an asset to give a name like that to a horse, but such is the case, as he has been entered for the Varina Hurdles. How is he to get over the sticks with such a name? The bookmakers could not put up with the selling plaster Kunnahareeyah, and called the Newmarket mare "Annie Rooney" for short. As regards letters, she is of stunted growth compared with the Warlike hound, but they contemplate calling him "Pill for the Shore." That's near enough, they say.

THE Tehuantepec Railway across the Isthmus of Mexico is at length on the verge of completion. It was begun 25 years ago, but two English contractors failed to overcome the difficulties of a large swamp that had to be crossed, and after their unsuccessful attempts the work lay in statu quo for ten years. Recently it was taken up by Chicago contractors, who have negotiated all the obstacles and have now only some forty miles of straight track to build. The line will be two hundred and fifty miles long, and will connect the West and East coasts, thus bringing the Gulf of Campeche into direct communication with the Gulf of Tehuantepec. Of all the various projects for bridging the great continent, this little considered and seldom talked-of railway will be first in the field.

THE contract with the Messageries Maritimes for the local service in Indo-China has just been renewed. The line from Saigon to Manila will now be discontinued, but those from Saigon to Singapore and Saigon to Hongkong are to be continued. The subsidy is raised from 1.18 to 1.25 for the latter of these lines, in consideration of an increased speed, and also of the company engaging to have Annam coasted with the proportion of three-fifths of their consumption for their old boats, and local coal entirely for the new ones. The subsidy will be paid by Cochinchina and the countries of the Protectorate, Cochinchina paying 12-13ths of the Singapore Saigon line, the other thirteenth being paid by Cambodia. 6-11ths of the Hongkong line Cochinchina pays 6-11ths, the balance being paid by Cambodia. The Governor General has fixed at \$25,000 the subsidy to be paid by Cambodia to the Messageries Fluviales of Cochinchina.

OF the three vessels, the *Royal Arthur*, *Edgar*, and *Achilles*, holding their pennants (the two former for the first time) on the 10th and 11th, perhaps the greatest interest attaches to the *Royal Arthur*, as she is intended for the important service as flagship on the Pacific Station. The *Royal Arthur* belongs to the type of protected cruisers. She has an armoured deck, with a maximum thickness of five inches, extending from stem to stern, and sloping at the sides to a point some distance below the normal water line. Below this deck are the magazines, &c., and very complete cellular subdivision is carried out, in which a longitudinal bulkhead, running through the greater portion of the ship, and meeting numerous transverse partitions, plays a very important part. Her displacement is 7,700 tons, thereby taking a place between the 4,000-ton *Mercury* and the 9,000-ton *Blake*. Her length is 300 feet, beam 50 feet, and mean draft 23 feet. 9 inches or, she is 16 feet shorter than the *Blake* and 60 feet longer than the *Mercury*. The engines, made by Messrs. Manulley, are of 12,000-horse power with forced draft, and 7,500-horse power with natural draft; her extreme speed is 10.5 knots. The armament consists of one 9 inch, 24 ton breech-loader, carried aloft; two 6 inch, 24 ton breech-loader, five 3 pounder quick-firing, and eighteen 18 inch torpedo tubes. She has cost £282,000.

CAPT. Jackson, the genial skipper of the Indo-China Steamship Co's *Kaitang* has, we are glad to learn, been granted well-earned furlough and shortly leaves for home. Mr. Bowker, chief officer of the *Yihang*, succeeds Capt. Jackson.

PROBABLY the most gifted proof-reader in the world, save a contemporary, is Mr. J. Emery McLean, of the Bible Society. His duty consists of proof-reading in 242 languages and dialects. Not including an occasional indulgence in profane language.

A FOREMAN printer named Wright, in the employ of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co., East India merchants, was charged at the Mansion House, London, on the 8th ult. with stealing the property of a telegraphic code, the property of his employers. Two sheets were found upon him when he was arrested, and sixty-six more were found in a box at his lodgings. The prisoner said he had been offered fifty pounds for the code, but had refused to take it. He was fined £10, or in default one month's hard labour.

THAN-THAI, the young king of Annam, wandered forth from his palace gates recently, without the knowledge of his nurse; took a "ricksha," and had a run round the streets of Hue, in defiance of all rules of Court etiquette. Finally he brought up at a shop kept by M. Bogaert, who had to show him round the place, and work his shearing machine; suit the infant monarch's whim, and call in a few passing natives to get their hair cut. The *Courrier* says that this faithful insubordination of little Than-thai has caused the resignation of the whole council, and no end of trouble besides. His Majesty is 15 years old, and has for some time had three wives, the favourite one being daughter of his War Minister. His tutor is a post and telegraph agent, jumped into the berth by a "job," and respected by nobody.

STORAGE OF NITRO-GLYCERINE IN BULK.

IN view of the popular superstition as to the dangerous nature of nitro-glycerine, and as to the advisability of storing it in big tanks in the tropics, a statement of facts on this much misunderstood subject may be of interest to our readers. The question as to whether the installation of storage tanks on a large scale in the heart of this Colony would be a source of danger or not is out of the range of discussion entirely; trade rivalry and other less honourable motives lead to agitation against it, but to an impartial (i.e. German) mind there are no two ways about it—that there is no possible doubt, no possible probable shadow of doubt, no possible doubt whatever! I what we give in the present contribution is merely a record of facts, gleaned from interested and uninterested sources, with regard to the nitro-glycerine trade.

Nitro-glycerine is a treacherous sort of sweetmeat, largely used in the fishing industry. A small dose of it, made up in the form of dynamite cartridges, has such a soothing effect on the fishy world that they at once come to the surface of the water and turn up their eyes like Silly Flats. The coming of K. Wilhelms it has been the practice to store nitro-glycerine only at remote places, such as Stonecutters, for instance; to compel steamers having such cargo to unload it outside of the harbour limits, under special safeguards and stringent regulations, like kerosene and other dangerous goods; but the march of science and commerce, "once tried, always used," should be in every household, and old methods with their ridiculous precautions, superseded. Apart altogether from business jealousy, it was only natural, looking to the nature of the liquid, that considerable opposition should be generated against the new venture. It must be confessed that there have been good reasons for regarding the establishment of large storage tanks for such violently dangerous goods as highly distrust and fear. Two or three thousand fatalities have occurred, and vast destruction has been created, in connection with nitro-glycerine and its kindred. It is only a year ago that a whole quarter of Canton City was utterly annihilated by an explosion of a little earlier, the Singapore police compound was the scene of a similar terrible catastrophe, while smaller accidents occur about us, in Hongkong itself, every few days. These may be, and probably are (it is urged by some people) unusual occurrences which never find a parallel. All the same, it is difficult for people whose lives may be endangered, and whose pockets may not be benefited, to believe that precautions can be taken to really ensure the prevention of similar accidents. That is why grandly-motivated governments, every part of the world vigorously enforce every possible method of protection from possibility of explosion, where nitro-glycerine, gunpowder, dynamite, kerosene, or other inflammable goods are stored.

In laying out a site for a nitro-glycerine installation, it is necessary (whatever objections timorous people may make) to have it near a deep water quay where the tank steamers can lie alongside. The tanks are situated near the quay, which is connected by a pipe line. The arrangement is especially suited for a place like Hongkong, haunted by typhoons and thunderstorms; for if the tank is struck by lightning, people will know all about it instantly. Similarly, it will be easy to tell whether the sun is too hot or not; for as soon as the heat of the rays gets beyond a safe point, up goes the whole caboodle, and there you are, don't you know?

None of the employees about the place will be allowed to use matches—not even safety matches; nothing but the essentially prudent flint and steel and tinder-box. Coolies, whenever they are prevented from smoking, by any means, will be requested to smoke a specially cool brand of tobacco, so as not to overheat the nitro-glycerine. No accident need occur if strict care is exercised; all that is necessary is to absolutely eliminate the careless element from human nature—change the character of the race—only this, and nothing more.

FAR EASTERN COMMERCE.

BRITISH WITH GERMAN.

Mr. Norman P. Brown, to whom we briefly referred yesterday, arrived here from Shanghai in the *Malwa* on Monday, in the course of his tour round the world on a special mission to revive the energy of British trade in competition with European intruders. He represents Messrs. C. Blundell & Co. of London ("Cables" which) the Phoenix-Bronze Co., and a number of other prominent firms, embodying "sweetness and light." His object is to find out every point in which the cheap and nasty has displaced the genuine, and try what can be done to re-establish the right of the greatest commercial nation on earth in the cream of the world's commerce. This is exactly what has been wanted for a long time, and it is sincerely to be hoped that Mr. Brown will meet with triumphant success.

THE CHING LING POO TROUPE.

A special and complimentary performance was tendered to representatives of the "fourth estate" and a few other friends by the above

troupe at their rooms in Queen's Road last evening. As has been already notified these artists in the mystic line were recently brought down from Peking and will give a performance in the City Hall on Friday and Saturday next. The entertainment was unique in its way; and in every instance the sleight of hand business was new to Western eyes. Investigation and examination of the acrobats were sought both before and after each trick but nothing tending to their solution could be found. Large Chinese vases, lighted lamps, bowls of water and other weighty and bulky articles were brought from space. Clever contortion tricks were also shown and on the whole the "show" is far and away the best ever submitted to a Hongkong audience.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Governing Directors, for the year ending the 31st December, 1892, for presentation to the shareholders at the ordinary general meeting of the Company, to be held at the Registered Offices of the Company (over the new premises of the Hongkong Dispensary), at noon on Tuesday, the 18th April.

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you our Report and Balance sheet for 1892.

The net profit, including a balance of \$2,100.11 brought forward from last year, amounts to \$13,444.50, out of which we propose to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, which will absorb \$1,400, and to carry forward the balance, \$244.50, to New Profit and Loss Account.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. V. A. Cesar Hawkins, whose appointment as auditor requires confirmation.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, Governing Directors.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1893.

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER, 1892.

Liabilities.

Cash on Deposit.....\$ 16,900.65

Sundry Creditors.....379.67

Fixed Loans.....134,008.12

